

**Question for written answer E-012058/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

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Subject: VP/HR - Israel's attack on the Freedom Flotilla III: act of international piracy against the vessel 'Marianne' in international waters on 28 June 2015

The Freedom Flotilla is an international solidarity movement that condemns and protests against the illegal and cruel blockade imposed on Gaza. The Swedish-flagged vessel 'Marianne', which formed part of the third flotilla, was sailing towards Gaza on a humanitarian mission when it was attacked by the Israeli army in international waters in the early hours of 28 June. In an act of international piracy, the crew and passengers were kidnapped, illegally detained and taken, on their boat, to the Israeli military port of Ashdod. They were accused, inter alia, of entering Israel illegally. The vessel was boarded using violence and repressive tactics, threats and intimidation. Some of the crew were injured when electric stun guns were used against them. The vessel and all its contents were seized, including the crew's personal belongings.

The High Representative for Foreign Policy did not take any action vis-à-vis Israel at any time either before, during or after the boarding, despite having received the letter signed by Members of the European Parliament and despite having been warned of the threats made by Israel against the peaceful flotilla.

Can the High Representative confirm whether any steps have now been taken to condemn Israel for its attack on a European-flagged humanitarian vessel?